Basava Taraka Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation and Research Centre under National Cancer Control Programme;

(b) if so, the details of the request made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded a request of Indo-American Cancer Institute & Research Centre promoted by Smt. N.B.T. Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation & American Telugu Women's Organisation in which financial assistance for purchase of various equipments and for support of proposed cancer Screening wing has been requested.

Under the scheme of setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit of the National Cancer control Programme an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was released to the Smt. NBT Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Hospital, Hyderabad in 1999. Since this is a one-time grant, the request of the organisation for additional assistance was not acceded to. In order to meet the needs of the cancer patients, the MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad has been recognized as the Regional Cancer Centre and is regularly getting grant-in-aid from this Ministry.

Foreign funds to fight AIDS, Malaria and TB

1837. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to invite foreign funds to control AIDS, Malaria and TB;

(b) if so, whether recent statements made by US Ambassador in India and Microsoft Chief highlighting the dangers of AIDS in India have created panic in the country;

(c) whether Government have examined these statements;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has also called for early development of AIDS vaccine;

(e) if so, whether the Ranbaxy's anti-AIDS drug has got WHO nod; and

(f) to what extent Government will be in a position of check AIDS through foreign funds and anti-AIDS drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. India has submitted Country Coordinated Proposals amounting to US $ 253.67 million to the Global Fund created by United Nations General Assembly to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(b) No, Sir. The recent statements made by US Ambassador in India and Microsoft Chief Highlighting the dangers of AIDS in India were strongly refuted by Government in order to avoid any panic in the country;

(c) Yes, Sir. The Statements are based on the National Intelligence Council (NIC) report that states the number of people with HIV/AIDS will grow significantly by the end of the decade and the increase will be driven by the spread of the disease in five populous countries Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, India and China. The numbers of infected people are estimated to grow from around 14 to 23 million currently to 50-75 million by 2010. However the Government does not agree with these Statements. The National AIDS Control Organization conduct nationwide HIV Sentinel Surveillance every year during the period August-October. This data is also used to estimate the burden of HIV infections in the country in the adult population between 15-49 years of age group by taking certain assumptions into consideration. Based on the HIV Sentinel Surveillance data from 2001, an estimate of 3.97 million HIV infections was made.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2000 with the International AIDS vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA to promote and accelerate the efforts to develop an indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of HIV-1 sub-type C, predominant in India.

(e) The World Health Organization has approved three Anti-AIDS drugs *viz.* Lamivudine, Zidovudine and Nevirapine manufactured by Ranbaxy for supply to an UN agency;

(f) The Government is implementing a National AIDS Control programmes-Phase II with financial assistance from World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), UK, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USA and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in the entire country with two key objectives namely (i) to reduce the spread of HIV infection in India; and (ii) to strengthen India's capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS on a long term basis.

The programmes has five components *viz.* (i) priority targeted interventions for population at high risk; (ii) preventive interventions for the general population; (iii) low cost care for people living with HIV/AIDS; (iv) Institutional strengthening; (v) Intersectoral collaboration. Under the component of Low Cost AIDS Care, the Government provides anti-AIDS drugs for treatment of opportunistic infections in public sector hospitals up to the district level, provides anti-retroviral drugs for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) and for post-exposure prophylaxis for medical and para-medical workers in case of accidental needle prick/ sharp injuries while treating HIV/AIDS patients. Government has waived excise duty on anti-retroviral drugs to make them affordable.

The National Sentinel Surveillance conducted by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) from 1998-2001 reveals that there is no upsurge in the spread of HIV infection in the country.

World Ayurvedic Congress

1838. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Ayurvedic Congress was held in India, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the topics discussed in the Congress;

(c) the documents/papers submitted by the researchers focussing on Ayurveda and Health Care;